



RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP 1723  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80574

Mitsuaki HIROKAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/806,416

Group Art Unit: 1723

Confirmation No.: 2263

Examiner: Krishnan S. MENON

Filed: March 23, 2004

For: SPIRAL SEPARATION MEMBRANE ELEMENT

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**MAIL STOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2007, time for responding to which being extended to March 23, 2007, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 02/051528 to De La Cruz ("Cruz '528") or U.S. Patent No. 6,352,641 to Schmidt ("Schmidt '641").

Applicants respectfully traverse.